TV channels as are registered with the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. The Authorized Officers under the Cable Act which include District Magistrates, Sub-Divisional Magistrates and Commissioners of Police are empowered to take action against the cable operators in case of carriage of unregistered channels. The Ministry has been communicating with the State Governments for setting up of State and District level Monitoring Committees to ensure compliance of the provisions of the Cable Act and the Rules thereunder. The Government on 7.10.2009 has issued an advisory to all authorized Multi System Operators and Cable Operators Associations to discontinue with immediate effect transmission/re-transmission of illegal channels failing which penal action would be taken. The Ministry is also in touch with the Ministry of Home Affairs to curb the carriage of unauthorized TV channels by cable operators.

Functioning of Prasar Bharati

†1901. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Prasar Bharati is not functioning smoothly as an autonomous institution;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether Government is considering establishment of a regulatory authority for smooth functioning of Prasar Bharati;

(c) whether Government is considering to dissolve the Board of Prasar Bharati by bringing in an ordinance; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI CHOUDHURY MOHAN JATUA): (a) and (b) The Government has received copies of representations and correspondences from members of the Prasar Bharati Board to the CEO and also the Chairman, Prasar Bharati Board regarding issues pertaining to the functioning of the Prasar Bharati Board. Government has ordered a special audit of Prasar Bharati on General Accounting Issues including the issue of functioning of Prasar Bharati and its Board and Specific Financial Issues as per the complaints of Member (Finance) Prasar Bharati.

The letters are in the nature of allegations regarding irresponsible behaviour of the Chairman, CEO and members of the Board, manner of fixing dates for the Board meetings, finalization and issue of minutes in departure from the past practices, financial irregularities, systemic problems etc. indicating disharmony among the Board members.

A Public Interest Litigation was filed by Center for Public Interest Litigation in the High Court of Delhi which included certain issues pertaining to functioning of the Board. The High Court *vide* its interim order dated 27/07/2009, has given directions on certain issues pertaining to the

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

functioning of the Board such as the minutes of meetings of the Board such as the minutes of meetings of the Board dated 21.01.2009, 16.02.2009, 23.03.2009, 18.05.2009 and 25.06.2009 as authenticated by the Chairman has to be implemented, submissions of compliance report of the implementation of the Resolutions and the minutes book to the High Court and fixing the date of the Board meeting. It has also directed that the allegation regarding financial and administrative irregularities etc. are referred to the Central Vigilance Commission for appropriate investigation. The same has been referred to Central Vigilance Commission by Prasar Bharati. In its final orders dated 13/11/2009, the High Court dismissed the PIL while upholding the interim directions to refer allegations regarding financial and administrative irregularities to Central Vigilance Commission. In the meanwhile, an SLP has been filed in the Supreme Court by the CEO, Prasar Bharati against the interim order of the High Court. The matter is *sub-judice*.

There is no proposal for establishment of Regulatory authority for smooth functioning of Prasar Bharati.

(c) No Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Unlicensed TV channels

1902. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken note of the fact that a number of cable operators in league with unscrupulous broadcasters have been beaming several unlicensed TV channels in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the cable operators brought to book during the current year, so far; and

(c) the steps taken and being taken to prevent such violation of the laws?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI CHOUDHURY MOHAN JATUA): (a) and (b) The Government is in receipt of inputs regarding downlinking and re-transmission of unregistered satellite TV channels by cable operators in their network in certain parts of the country. The Authorized Officers under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 which include District Magistrates, Sub-Divisional Magistrates, and Commissioners of Police are empowered to take action against the cable operators in case of carriage of unregistered channels. Since authorized officers who are district level officers enforces the provisions of Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and rules made thereunder, no data on the action taken against cable operators is maintained by the Central Government.

(c) The Programme Code as prescribed under the Cable Act and Rules made thereunder permits cable operators to carry only such satellite TV channels as are registered with